

Abstract of the Disclosure

Methods and systems for improving utilization of traffic channels in a mobile communications network. A method for allocating communication channels is provided for allocating communication channels for handoff in a first base station having a communication link with active mobile stations located in a handoff area of the first base station and a second base station. The method includes constructing a channel convertible set including communication channels for active mobile stations moving in a direction away from the first base station; receiving a handoff request from a requesting mobile station having a communication link with the second base station; and determining whether a free channel is available for the handoff request. Furthermore, the method includes allocating one of the communication channels in the channel convertible set to the handoff request if a free channel is not available for the handoff request.